

Capsule Summary  
SM-455  
Mount Olive  
Valley Lee  
Private

Circa 1870 - 1890 and earlier.

Mount Olive is a well-preserved architectural landmark located on the second highest point in St. Mary's County. This substantial two-story, five-bay structure is significant as an example of a fashionable late nineteenth century farmhouse. The smokehouse, which dates to the 1850s, is an interesting outbuilding both because of its construction technology and antique hardware.

Mount Olive stands on part of the tract "Jones Woods" and "Guythers Grange." These tracts were purchased by John Cole from George Watts in 1823. Following Cole's death, the property passed to his heirs. During William Cole's ownership the farm became known as "Mount Olive" and was the location of a store and post office as well as a residence.

According to oral history accounts, the original Mount Olive house burned in the late 1870s. By this time the dwelling was occupied by the Milburn family. Following its rebuilding, Mount Olive became a popular site for community fundraising dinners and balls.

SM-455, Mount Olive  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.

Historic Period Theme: Agriculture  
Architecture  
Commerce

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. Sm 455

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Mount Olive

**2. Location**

street & number Drayden Road (Rte 244)    not for publication

city, town Valley Lee    vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Saint Mary's

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Donald L. & Audrey W. Albaugh

street & number Star Rte 2 Box 11 telephone no.: (301) 994-0739

city, town Valley Lee state and zip code Maryland 20692

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 181

street & number    folio 388

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local   

pository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. **SM 455**

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 2

Mount Olive is located on the south side of Drayden Road (Route 244) near Valley Lee in St. Mary's County, Maryland. This site is the highest point in the Valley Lee District and the second highest point in St. Mary's County. Two barns and a mid-century smokehouse are located on the south side of the house. Cultivated fields extend to the north and east of the house. On the south side of the structure, the landscape slopes significantly. From the rear elevation of the dwelling, the Potomac shore of Virginia is visible. The substantial dwelling faces north with the gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in the late 1870s or early 1880s to replace an earlier structure, the main block of Mount Olive is a two-story, five-bay, frame building with a slightly shorter two-story kitchen wing on the east end. The house is sheathed with aluminum siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. It has a continuous brick foundation.

The north (main) elevation has a central entrance door with a single light transom, wide surrounds, and louvered shutters. Two two-over-two sash windows with the same surrounds and shutters flank the door on either side. The second floor is pierced by a central door flanked on either side by two shuttered two-over-two sash windows. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridge line at either end of the main block. A two-story, gable roof portico extends across the three central bays of the main block's north elevation. The first floor of the portico has a cement pad floor and square post supports. The second floor, added in the 1980s, has square post supports and a Chinese Chippendale style baluster. The gable roof of the portico is pierced by a diamond pane window and is finished with slight cornice returns. The slightly shorter two-story kitchen wing, located to the east of the main block, is pierced on both the first and second floors by two two-over-two sash windows with louvered shutters. A one-story, screened porch addition, constructed in the 1980s, extends from the two-story wing.

The east elevation of the main block is almost completely obscured by the slightly shorter two-story kitchen wing. Only the second floor is pierced by a two-over-two sash window. The kitchen wing is pierced by a three-light-over-three-panel door which opens onto the screened porch. An exterior cinderblock chimney with a brick cap stands against the gable end of the kitchen wing. To the south of the kitchen wing extends a shed roof addition constructed in 1986. This addition is lit by three one-light windows. A wood deck wraps around from the east side of the structure to the south elevation.

The south elevation of the kitchen wing is pierced by two two-over-two sash

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM 455

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Unknown ☒ Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Mount Olive is a well-preserved architectural landmark located on the second highest point in St. Mary's County. This substantial two-story structure is significant as an example of a fashionable late nineteenth century farmhouse, built for a well-to-do family from the Second District of St. Mary's County. The smokehouse, which dates to the 1850s, is an interesting outbuilding both because of its construction technology and antique hardware.

Mount Olive stands on part of the tract "Jones Woods" and "Guythers Grange." These tracts were purchased by John Cole from George Watts in 1823. Following Cole's death, the property passed to his heirs. One of these heirs, William E. Cole, became possessed of all the interest in this property.

William E. Cole is listed in the 1850 census as a merchant. His store was located on the Mount Olive property. Probably included in the store was the Mount Olive post office, established in 1851. The post office closed in 1859 and in 1860, Cole is listed in the census as a farmer. During the Civil War, Cole was appointed to be an enrolling officer for the county. A St. Mary's Beacon article of August 28, 1862 suggests that Cole may have been unwilling to serve as such. A Beacon article of March 3, 1864 describes Cole's arrest, but gives no explanation of the circumstances. Cole dies in that same year.

During William Cole's ownership the farm became known as "Mount Olive." In 1867, the Decree Record of the equity case brought before the Circuit Court to settle Cole's estate notes the sale of "Mount Olive with the storehouse attached" to Ann C. Wilson. Later, it is referred to as "Cole's Mount Olive Farm or home place." Ann Wilson sells the property to John L. and Eliza O. Milburn in 1870. Two years later, John sells his interest in that part of the property which is improved with buildings to Eliza O. Milburn, wife of J. Morris Milburn.

Over the next one hundred years, Mount Olive remained in the Milburn family. A St. Mary's Beacon article of April 29, 1880 advertises a dinner to be held at Mount

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. **SM 455**

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 AcresQuadrangle name Piney PointQuadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone	Easting				Northing				

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing				

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Acreage immediately surrounding house and including outbuildings.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoningdate October 1994street & number 328 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475 4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-7600

SM-455, Mount Olive Farm  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

windows and one one-over-one sash window on the second floor. The first floor is obscured by the modern shed roof addition. The addition is pierced by a pair of sliding glass doors and two stationary glass panels of equal size. The main block of the house is pierced by a central entrance door flanked on the east by three sets of four louvered windows and on the west by two one-over-one sash windows. Originally, this first floor was an inset porch sheltered by an overhang created by the second floor of the main block. A series of eight chamfered posts on cement piers which are now flush with the exterior wall surface extend across the first floor of the elevation. The second floor is pierced by four two-over-two sash windows with plain surrounds. The first floor entrance door of this elevation is sheltered by a portico supported by square posts. The second floor of the portico is a gable roof enclosure, added in 1990, which serves as a second floor bathroom.

The west elevation of the first floor porch enclosure is lit by one one-over-one sash window. The second floor of the main block is pierced by two two-over-two sash windows. The eave is pierced by a diamond pane window like that on the north elevation of the gable roof portico. The shed roof addition of the kitchen wing, which extends to the south, is pierced by three one-light windows.

The interior of the house consists of a center hall, single pile plan. Many of the original interior finishes remain intact. The hall consists of an open string stair with turned balusters, a molded handrail, and a blocky, turned newell post typical of the period. The stair is finished with scroll sawn brackets. The closet under the stair has been converted for use as a small bathroom. The hall door surrounds, repeated throughout the house, consist of an interior band of shallow, opposing cyma curves bordered by a flat band. The jamb molding is supported by a plinth block and surmounted by bulls-eye corner blocks. Four-panel entrance doors, one of which is a replacement, are located at either end of the hall. The west parlor retains a delicate mantel consisting of a pair of free-standing turned spindles which flank the firebox. The reeded mantel shelf above is supported by brackets. The mantel in the east parlor, or dining room, is less ornate. Here, the firebox is flanked by plain pilasters with chamfered edges supported by plain plinth blocks. A similarly reeded mantel shelf is supported by brackets. The first floor of the kitchen wing is sheathed with narrow wood planking from the floor to the chair rail. A four-panel door opens to a back stair on the east wall of the wing which provides access to the bedroom above.

The second floor of the main block consists of four bedrooms and a modern bath. The second floor of the kitchen wing is a single bedroom. One of the windows in this wing has been inscribed with the name of Lucie Milburn Coppage.

Three outbuildings stand on the property. The oldest of these is a mid-century frame smokehouse in poor condition. Located southeast of the kitchen wing, the gable

SM-455, Mount Olive Farm  
St. Mary's County  
7.2 Description

roof structure faces north with its roof on a north/south axis. The building now rests on ground sills, although it may have originally been supported by wood piers. The smokehouse is sheathed with weatherboard and vertical board siding, and roofed with wood shingles. Most of the vertical boards are attached to the structure with mature machine cut nails. At least one of the weatherboards bears reciprocal saw marks. A vertical panel door hung with machine made metal hinges has been added to the north elevation of the building. The original door to the structure is located on its east longitudinal side. This vertical panel door has one diagonal and one horizontal batten and is hung on wrought metal hinges. A large metal box lock is mounted on the door. The interior of the building has a plank wood floor. The exposed framing members consist of hewn and sawn corner posts and studs which are pegged into the top plates. The corner posts are reinforced by down braces which are also mortise and tenoned and pegged into place. The interior of the smokehouse consists of one room with a wood floor and a loft above. The loft floorboards are circular sawn. A hole in the northwest corner of the floor provides access to the loft space.

Two barns are located west of the house. One of these is sheathed with vertical boards and roofed with corrugated metal. The first floor has been divided into stalls and the second floor is a loft space for the storage of hay. The second barn, used for storage, is both sheathed and roofed with corrugated metal.



SM-455, Mount Olive Farm  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance

Olive, the residence of Mr. J. Morris Milburn, for the benefit of the Ladies Parish Aid Society of William and Mary Parish. Announcements for such fundraising suppers and balls at Mount Olive continue throughout the 1880s and 1890s. According to oral history accounts, the old Mount Olive house burned in the late 1870s. Surprisingly, no mention of the fire appears in the St. Mary's Beacon. The only structure which survives from this early history of the Mount Olive property is the smokehouse, which seems to date to the 1850s.

Following the fire, a new dwelling was probably built on the Mount Olive site almost immediately. The substantial two-story, five-bay structure located here today is a well-preserved example of a rural Victorian farmhouse. The only changes to the exterior of the main elevation have been the addition of a one-story screened porch on the west end and the reworking of the two-story portico. Many of the dwelling's interior finishes remain intact.

SM-455, Mount Olive Farm  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Donald L. Albaugh and Audrey W. Albaugh  
FROM: William Duke Coppage  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRB 181, folio 388.  
DATE: May 25, 1984.  
NOTES: Transfer of 77.2441 acres being part of CBG 24/176.

TO: William Duke Coppage and Lucy Wilson Coppage  
FROM: Mary R. Fowler  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 24, folio 176.  
DATE: November 30, 1949.  
NOTES: Transfer of all the remaining portion of land conveyed to Lucy Wilson Coppage as Lucy W. Milburn, being EBA 14/197.

TO: Mary R. Fowler  
FROM: Lucy Wilson Coppage and William Duke Coppage  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 24, folio 175.  
DATE: November 30, 1949.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Mt. Olive Farm."

TO: Lucy W. Milburn  
FROM: Eliza O. Milburn, widow.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 14, folio 197.  
DATE: September 9, 1915.  
NOTES: Transfer of part of "Mt. Olive Farm" being 108 1/2 acres being the same as JAC 5/453.

TO: Eliza O. Milburn  
FROM: John L. Milburn  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 5, folio 453.  
DATE: March 6, 1872.  
NOTES: Transfer of half of "Jones Woods and Guyther's Range" or "Mount Olive Farm" being 108 1/2 acres and all that part of said land with buidings on it.

TO: John L. Milburn and Eliza O. Milburn  
FROM: Edwin A. Wilson and Ann C. Wilson  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 5, folio 113.  
DATE: October 8, 1870.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Jones Woods and Guyther's Grange" a portion of the real estate of which the late William E. Cole died seized and possessed and is more generally known as Coles Mount Olive farm or home place. Price: \$3000

SM-455, Mount Olive Farm  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

TO: Ann C. Wilson

FROM: Robert C. Combs and James S. Downs, Trustees

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 4, folio 464.

DATE: October 4, 1870.

NOTES: Sale of property as result of decree in Circuit Court dated March 19, 1867 in the case of James H. Miles Admin. D.B.N. of William B. Taylor and John S. Guyther vs. James H. Miles and Eliza A. Cole, Executors of William E. Cole et al. According to the Decree Record (JAC 3/72) William E. Cole died in 1864 indebted to Guyther for \$7080.70 and to the estate of William B. Taylor for \$800. Ann C. Wilson bought at public auction "Mount Olive with the store house attached" for \$3050. This deed for the transfer of "Jones Woods" and "Guythers Grange," being 219 acres and "a portion of the land of which William E. Cole died possessed, generally known as Cole's Mt. Olive farm or home place," confirms that sale.

TO: Ann W. Cole, Violetta G. Cole, Elizabeth G. Cole, William E. Cole, children and heirs of John Cole, deceased.

FROM: Robert Crane

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 9, folio 269.

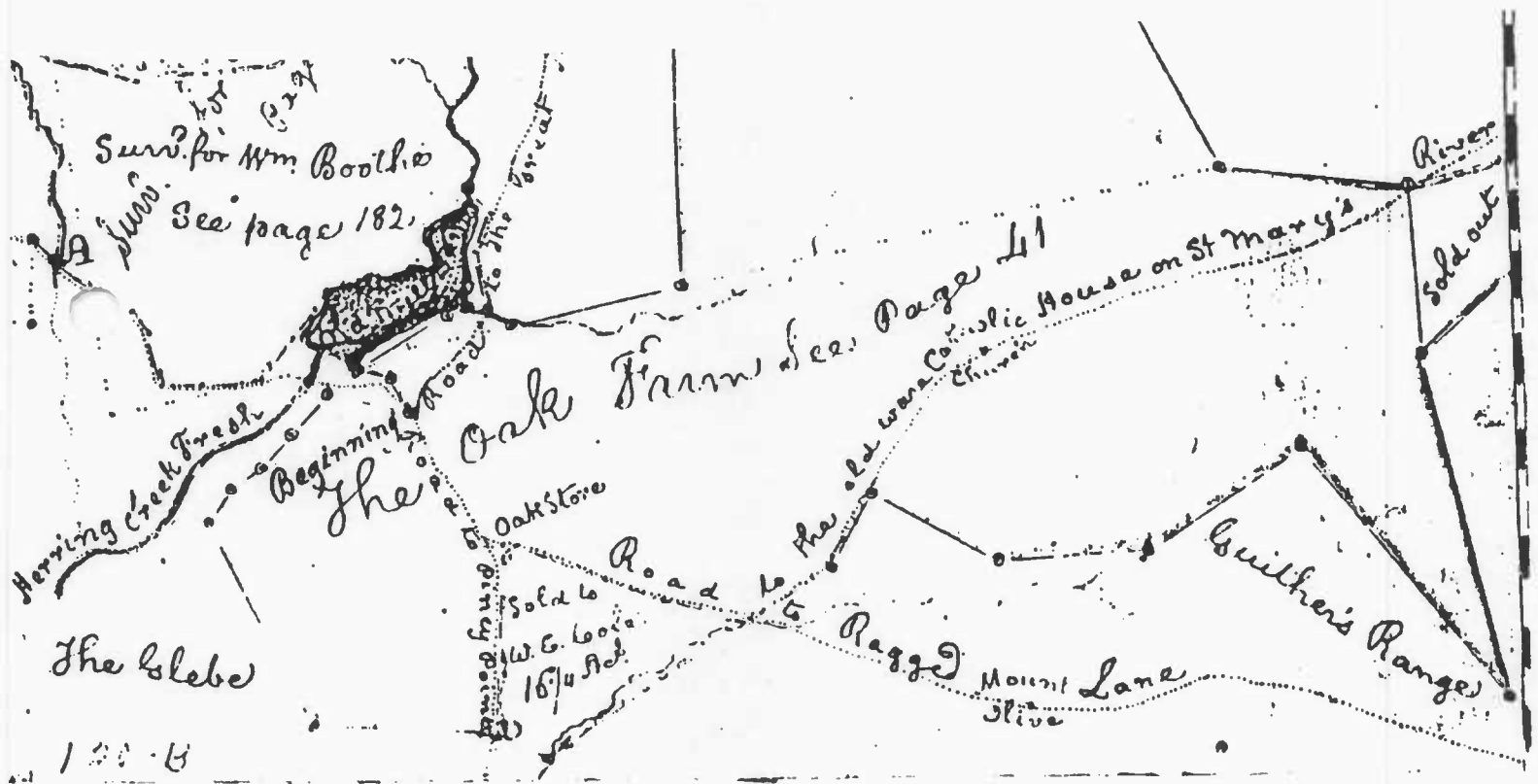
DATE: June 26, 1832.

NOTES: Richard H. Watts was appointed Trustee in Court of Equity to sell the real estate of George Watts for the payment of debts. On April 1, 1823 Watts sold to John Cole the real estate of George Watts being "Part of Jones Woods" and a part of "Guythers Grange," "Part of Timber Swamp," "Part of addition to Timber Swamp," "Part of Maids Right," and "Part of Watts Discovery" being 218 3/4 acres more or less. Both Richard Watts and John Cole are now deceased, so the court ordered on March 15, 1826 to appoint Crane as Trustee to complete the sale.

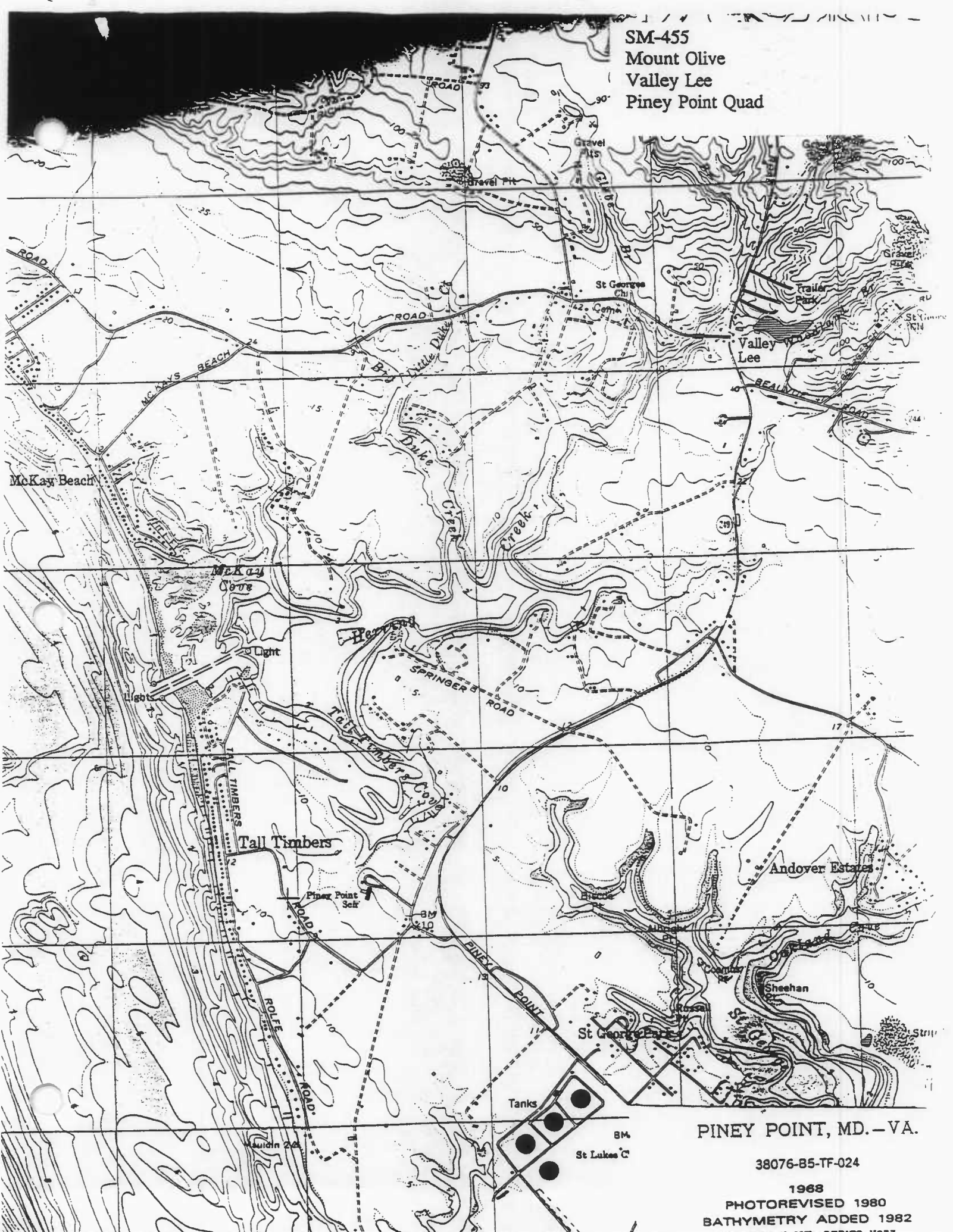
Price: \$2016

SM-455, Mount Olive Farm  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

Source: Benjamin Tippet, "Plat of Sundry Lands lying between Saint Mary's River and Blake Creek," Surveyor Log Books: Vol. A, 1836-1856: 176.



SM-455  
Mount Olive  
Valley Lee  
Piney Point Quad



PINEY POINT, MD.-VA.

38076-B5-TF-024

1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1980  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
SHEET 5550 II NE-SERIES VR33















